

'Canada must become neutral, nuclear-free'

NORAD hinders sovereignty

by Suzette C. Chan

In order to protect its sovereignty, Canada must not renew the NORAD treaty.

That is the opinion of a group of Edmontonians who have formed the Ad Hoc Initiating Committee 100. The committee is circulating a petition which asks Prime Minister Brian Mulroney not to renew Canada's North American Aerospace Defence Command agreement with the United States. The treaty is due for renewal in two years.

"If we are a member of NORAD — and NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) — that means that our foreign and military policies are dependent on United States policy," says Harry Strynadka, the coordinator of the ad hoc group. "If we are dependent on U.S. military and foreign policy, we will lose the Canadian peace initiative."

Strynadka explained that, because of its "geographic, economic and political condition", Canada can act as a peace broker.

"We feel that Canada should have the capability and responsibility to especially restrain our closest neighbour and ally, the United States."

He said that Canada's power lies in the U.S. need for Canadian cooperation and territory for weapons testing and troop manoeuvres. He said joining the Strategic Defence Initiative would place Canada in an even more precarious position.

"Star Wars requires our land and air space. We would be sandwiched between two nuclear powers in a very dangerous way."

Strynadka says the only solution is for Canada to become a kind of watchdog between the U.S. and U.S.S.R.

"(With the petition) we are not only saying no to NORAD, but we must prepare the ground for our own foreign and military policy — not a defence policy because defence means deterrence and deterrence only gives rise to an arms race."

To protect its sovereignty, Strynadka believes Canada would have to upgrade its navy and develop its own merchant marine and air surveillance systems, but this should not lead to weapons build-up.

"Canada would have to become a nuclear weapons-free zone. Our policy must have some kind of neutrality, as does Finland."

Strynadka urged students to sign the petition (for more information,

More South Africa

continued from page 3
ple, since they are all busy. Peter Kent agreed first."

Kent and Woods are the only two journalists who agreed, in principle, to the debate. Woods is preferred because he has more knowledge of South Africa, said McKenzie.

McKenzie said he asked if Babb refused because Woods is a banned individual in South Africa, but the embassy gave no reasons.

The principle at stake is freedom of expression, said McKenzie. "They're asking us to deny one man's freedom of expression in exercising another's."

"If they're willing to debate Donald Woods, then we'll reissue the invitation," McKenzie said, but at the moment, there will be no debate. The club still wants Woods to speak, he added.

For now, it's a resolution to a debate that saw Carleton's biggest political student gathering this year. Packed by more than 100 spectators and television cameras, the Feb. 20 council meeting was the scene of three and a half hours of increasingly emotional debate over apartheid and freedom of speech. The Press Club was decertified that night for inviting Babb.

write P.O. Box 11032, Edmonton, T5J 3K4 or phone 469-1642) and added that stopping Canada's participation in NORAD was only a

first step.

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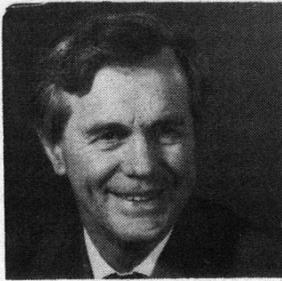
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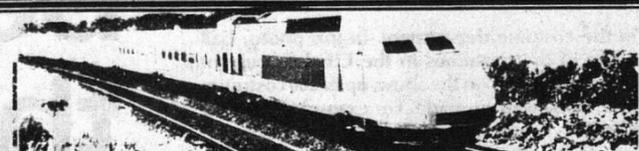
AND

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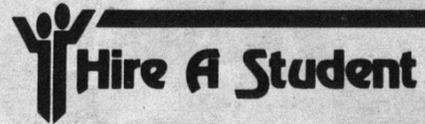
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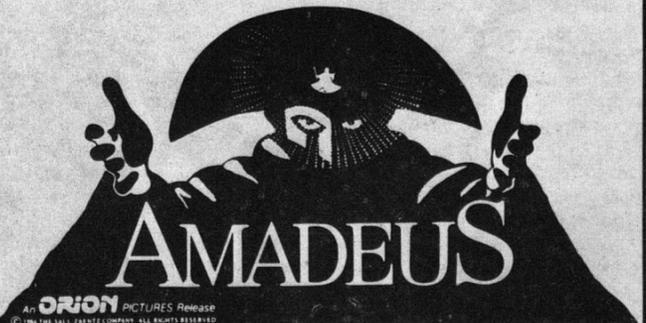
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